

Please amend the Application as follows.

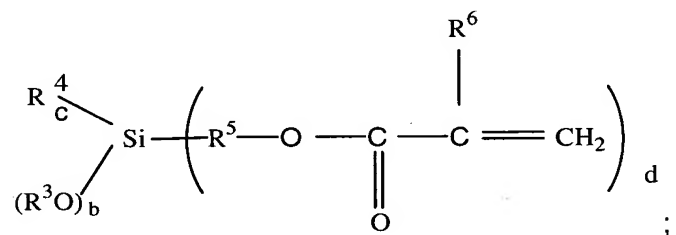
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The present listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A multilayered article comprising:

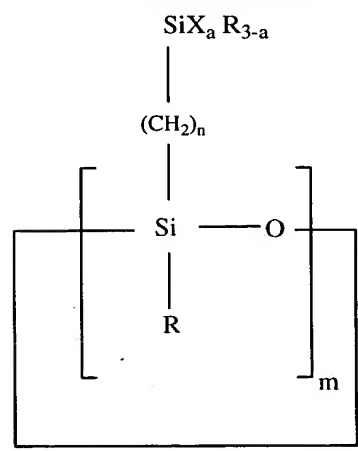
- (1) a substrate (S);
- (2) a scratch-resistant layer (SR) prepared by curing a scratch-resistant coating composition comprising a polycondensate prepared from at least one silane, said polycondensate being prepared by a sol-gel process,

wherein said at least one silane is selected from the group consisting of 1) methylsilane; 2) methyltrimethoxysilane, methyltrihydroxysilane and mixtures thereof; 3) silyl acrylates according to the formula



4) silylacrylates comprising nanoscale AlO(OH) particles; and

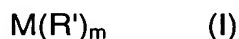
5) cyclic organosiloxanes according to the formula



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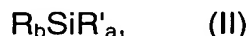
(3) a top layer (T) prepared by curing a top layer coating composition prepared by hydrolysing a composition consisting of

(a) at least one compound represented by general formula I,



wherein M is an element selected from the group consisting of Si, Ti, Zr, Sn, Ce, Al, B, VO, In and Zn, R' represents a hydrolysable radical, and m is an integer from 2 to 4; and

(b) optionally at least one compound represented by general formula II,



wherein the radicals R' and R are the same or different, R' is as defined for general formula (I), R represents a group selected from an alkyl group, an alkenyl group, an aryl group, a hydrocarbon group with at least one halogen group, an epoxide group, a glycidyloxy group, an amino group, a mercapto group, a methacryloxy group and a cyano group, and a and b independently of one another have a value from 1 to 3, provided that the sum of a and b is four and

(c) optionally one or more additives selected from the group consisting of water, acid, solvent, dyestuffs, flow control agents, UV stabilizers, IR stabilizers, photoinitiators and photosensitizers,

wherein said scratch-resistant layer is interposed between said substrate and said top layer.

2. (Original) The multilayered article of Claim 1 wherein said substrate comprises a plastic.

3. (Original) The multilayered article of Claim 1 wherein the polycondensate of the scratch-resistant coating composition is prepared from methylsilane.

4. (Original) The multilayered article of Claim 1 wherein the polycondensate of the scratch-resistant coating composition is prepared from a composition comprising 10 to 70 wt.% silica sol, and 30 to 90 wt.% of a partially condensed organoalkoxysilane, in a solvent mixture comprising at least one aqueous solvent and organic solvent.

5. (Original) The multilayered article of Claim 1 wherein the polycondensate of the scratch-resistant coating composition is prepared from at least one silyl acrylate.

6. (Original) The multilayered article of Claim 1 wherein the scratch-resistant coating composition further comprises methacryloxypropyl-trimethoxysilane and AlO(OH) nanoparticles.

7. (Original) The multilayered article of Claim 1 wherein the polycondensate of the scratch-resistant coating composition is prepared from at least one multifunctional cyclic organosiloxane.

8. (Original) The multilayered article of Claim 1 wherein the hydrolysis of the composition of the top layer coating composition is conducted in the presence of at least 0.6 mole of water, based on 1 mole of hydrolysable radicals R'.

9. (Original) The multilayered article of Claim 1 wherein during the hydrolysis of the composition of the top layer coating composition, the compound of formula II is present in an amount of less than 0.7 mole, based on 1 mole of the compound of formula I.

10. (Original) The multilayered article of Claim 1 wherein the hydrolysis of the composition of the top layer coating composition is conducted at a pH of less than 6.0.

11. (Original) The multilayered article of Claim 1 wherein the solids content of the top layer coating composition is 0.2 to 15 wt.%.

12. (Original) The multilayered article of Claim 1 wherein the hydrolysis of the composition of the top layer coating composition is conducted in the presence of a solvent selected from at least one of water, an alcohol having a boiling point below 120°C and an alkoxy-alcohol.

13. (Original) The multilayered article of Claim 1 wherein M of formula (I) is selected from the group consisting of Si, Ti, Zr, Sn and Ce, and m is 4.

14. (Currently amended) The multilayered article of Claim 1 wherein M of formula (I) is selected from the group consisting of Al, B, VO^{3+} and In, and m is 3.

15. (Original) The multilayered article of Claim 1 wherein M of formula (I) is Zn, and m is 2.

16. (Original) The multilayered article of Claim 1 wherein the hydrolysable radical R' of formulas (I) and (II) is selected from the group consisting of halogens, C_{1-4} -alkoxy, C_{6-10} -aryloxy, C_{1-4} -acyloxy and alkylcarbonyl.

17. (Original) The multilayered article of Claim 1 wherein formula (I) is selected from at least one tetraalkoxysilane.

18. (Original) The multilayered article of Claim 1 wherein formula (II) is selected from at least one of glycidyloxy-propyl-tri-methoxy-silane, methyltriethoxysilane and methacryloxy-propyl-trimethoxysilane.

19. (Original) The multilayered article of Claim 1 wherein after completion of the hydrolysis of the composition of the top layer coating composition a hydrolysis product is formed and, at least one of:

at least one additive selected from the group consisting of flow control agents, dyestuffs, stabilizers and inorganic fillers is added to the hydrolysis product; and the concentration of the hydrolysis product is adjusted to 0.02 to 15 wt.% by adding at least one of alcohols and alkoxy-alcohols to the hydrolysis product.

20. (Original) The multilayered article of Claim 1 wherein the scratch-resistant layer has a thickness of 0.5 to 30 μm .

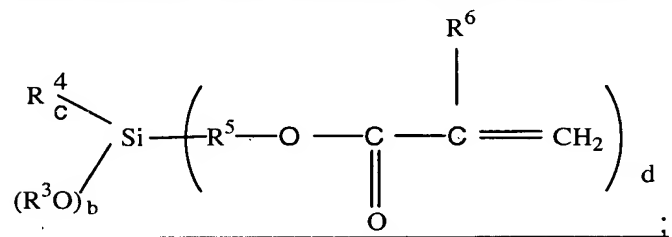
21. (Original) The multilayered article of Claim 1 wherein the top layer has a thickness of 0.1 to 3.0 μm .

22. (Original) The multilayered article of Claim 1 further comprising a primer layer (P) interposed between said substrate and said scratch-resistant layer.

23. (Currently amended) A process of preparing a multilayered article comprising the following steps:

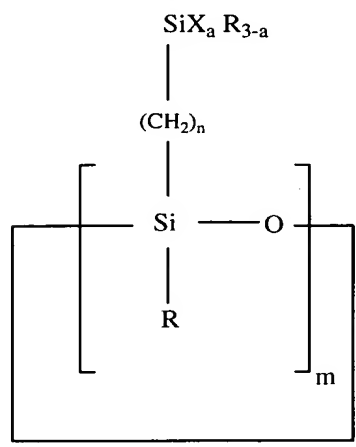
- (a) providing a substrate;
- (b) forming a scratch-resistant layer by applying a scratch-resistant coating composition to a surface of said substrate, and partially curing the applied scratch-resistant coating composition, said scratch-resistant coating composition comprising a polycondensate prepared from at least one silane, said polycondensate being prepared by a sol-gel process

wherein said at least one silane is selected from the group consisting of 1) methylsilane; 2) methyltrimethoxysilane, methyltriethoxysilane and mixtures thereof; 3) silyl acrylates according to the formula



4) silylacrylates comprising nanoscale AlO(OH) particles; and

5) cyclic organosiloxanes according to the formula



—; and

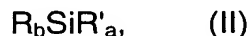
- (c) forming a top layer by applying a top layer coating composition to the scratch-resistant layer, said top layer coating composition being prepared by hydrolysing a composition consisting of

- (i) at least one compound represented by general formula I,



wherein M is an element selected from the group consisting of Si, Ti, Zr, Sn, Ce, Al, B, VO, In and Zn, R' represents a hydrolysable radical, and m is an integer from 2 to 4; and

- (ii) optionally at least one compound represented by general formula II,



wherein the radicals R' and R are the same or different, R' is as defined for general formula (I), R represents a group selected from an alkyl group, an alkenyl group, an aryl group, a hydrocarbon group with at least one halogen group, an epoxide group, a glycidyloxy group, an amino group, a mercapto group, a methacryloxy group and a cyano group, and a and b independently of one another have a value from 1 to 3, provided that the sum of a and b is four and

- (iii) optionally one or more additives selected from the group consisting of water, acid, solvent, dyestuffs, flow control agents, UV stabilizers, IR stabilizers, photoinitiators and photosensitizers; and
- (d) curing said scratch-resistant and top layers.

24. (Previously Presented) The process of Claim 23 further comprising drying the scratch-resistant layer at a temperature of greater than 110°C, after the application of the scratch-resistant coating composition to said substrate.

25. (Original) The process of Claim 24 wherein the scratch-resistant coating composition comprises flow control agents present in an amount of 0.01 to 3.0 wt.%.

26. (Original) The process of Claim 24 wherein the top layer coating composition is applied at a relative humidity of 50 to 75%.

27. (Original) The process of Claim 24 further comprising curing the scratch-resistant layer, activating the cured scratch-resistant layer by applying at least one of a corona treatment and a flame treatment to a surface of the cured scratch-resistant layer, and applying said top layer coating to the activated scratch-resistant layer.

28. (Original) The process of Claim 24 further comprising, applying a primer layer (P) to the substrate, and applying the scratch-resistant coating composition to the primer layer.